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Monroe and Angie Curtis enjoy a sleigh ride down Sanders Court in the aftermath of this week's snow.

GOP changes state meeting to Springfield

By Tom Threlkeld and Jim Vogel
Missourian staff writers

The Missouri Republican State Committee made a mistake in moving its 1976 state convention from Columbia to Springfield on grounds that there is inadequate lodging space here, the president of the Columbia Lodging Association said Saturday.

Stephens College Assembly Hall was scheduled to be the site for the June 12 convention. But that plan was changed Saturday by a 29-20 vote of the state committee, meeting during Lincoln Day Festivities in Kansas City.

Larry Matthews, president of the lodging association, said he was "really surprised" that the committee thought Columbia could not accommodate the expected 1,400 delegates. The com-

mittee should "tell us what they need and let us answer them," he said.

Matthews, manager of the Ramada Inn, 1100 Vandiver Drive, said, "I can assure you we have enough housing."

The Ramada Inn was to be the convention's headquarters, and was expected, along with other area motels, to benefit financially from the convention, Matthews said.

Also at the meeting, state Republicans expressed concern that the Stephens Assembly Hall offered inadequate caucus facilities.

At the convention, state Republicans will select 19 delegates at large to represent Missouri at the Republican National Convention in Kansas City in August.

A move Friday morning to place the convention in St. Louis failed because a site that could accommodate the delegates and alternates could not be found.

The motion for the change from Columbia to Springfield came from Stanley Christopher, a Fifth District member from Kansas City.

Boone County Republicans will be disappointed with the change, said Lou Ashley, chairwoman of the Boone County Republican Central Committee.

"But we understand the reasoning," Ashley said. She said the move was a simple matter of facilities that would have no effect on Republican morale here.

In other action Saturday, the state committee voted by acclamation to designate Eyyon Mendenhall, St. Louis, the national Republican committeewoman from Missouri. She will succeed 16-year committeewoman Rosemary Ginn, Columbia, who is expected to be appointed ambassador to Luxembourg by the White House.

Mendenhall said she was "just thrilled, but it will be hard to fill Rosemary's shoes."

Insight Convention 'brokering' expected

Area candidates may trade votes for secret deals

By Chip Magness
Chicago Sun-Times

The favorite sons are back — in a manner of speaking.

As a result of several factors — including party delegate-selection reforms, the probability of a wide-open convention and Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace's early position of power — there is a flood of one-state or regional candidates in the race for the Democratic party presidential nomination.

Already three such candidates are in the running, and several more could enter before the July 12 convention. The three are Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen, D-Tex., Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W. Va., and Gov. Milton J. Shapp of Pennsylvania.

They appear to be in the race to capture the delegates of their own states and "broker" them at the convention. "Brokering" is a polite term for dealing your votes to the eventual nominees in exchange for whatever you can get.

In the post-Watergate morality, this sort of dealing sounds too much like back-room politicking, so the favorite sons try to maintain that they're out to win delegates across the nation. Only Byrd has admitted that he's a one-state, or even one-region, candidate.

Bentsen started out with a nationwide blitz, but a two-year effort and expenditure of \$1.5 million left him short of gaining the desired national image. His advisers have now written a scenario in which convention votes are brokered to their man.

But in all likelihood, Bentsen — as well as Shapp and Byrd — will wind up dealing their votes to another candidate.

Although formally entered in several states, Bentsen has retrenched and is throwing his energies into Texas, with sidesteps at the Louisiana and Oklahoma caucuses. Shapp has scarcely made a move outside Pennsylvania, and Byrd has confined his politicking to West Virginia and a few counties in adjoining states.

The 1974 Democratic primary re-

School board to discuss basic skills

By Karee Olson
Missourian staff writer

People tend to blame the school system when a child leaves school without basic reading and mathematics skills, says Columbia Board of Education member James Oglesby.

"That kind of thinking bothers me a lot," he says.

Oglesby says parents, community and schools share responsibility for a child's education. "Public education shouldn't bear the whole burden of guilt when a child fails to achieve."

But Oglesby thinks the schools should shoulder part of the burden, so he has proposed a policy requiring students to demonstrate acceptable reading and mathematics skills before being allowed to graduate.

His policy resolution — which would affect students entering high school next fall and thereafter — will be discussed at the regular school board

meeting at 8 p.m. Monday in the board office, 1002 Range Line St.

Although the resolution is directed at graduating high school seniors, its principles are broad enough to be adopted at lower educational levels, Oglesby says.

Oglesby says emphasis on basic skills must begin at the elementary level if the program is to be successful.

"When a student doesn't understand a concept basic to a more complicated skill, he falls behind and has difficulty catching up."

Oglesby says this building-block concept of education also applies when moving a child from one grade to the next.

If applied in its strictest sense, Oglesby's policy would keep children at a given grade level until they demonstrate proficiency in skills acceptable for that level.

However, he adds, "I'm not sure the people in the community are ready to

accept what the proposal could ultimately mean if we expect the schools to give every child the basics."

According to Oglesby, the Columbia schools have the potential to define and teach basic skills in the established 12-year period. "This is the context under which I'm presenting the resolution," he said.

Oglesby's plan would require constant evaluation of each student by the classroom teacher. He acknowledges the plan "would put the teacher in a bind because of the different levels of achievement in a classroom."

Teachers would stress a given set of basic skills while trying to meet students' individual needs at the same time. "On a one-to-one basis this works," he says, "but it's much more difficult in a full classroom."

Oglesby's plan does not outline any specific program to assure high school



James Oglesby
School board member

Missourian photo

Columbia's past survives in historic home

Impromptu tours now way of life for tenants

By Molly Maloney
Missourian staff writer

Jan Zavik, 25, knows old houses, sighs because they are so rare and expensive, and smiles because she and her husband Gary live in the 107-year-old Conley House near the University campus.

Mrs. Zavik is a secretary for George Miller, a retired Columbia attorney who handles the affairs of his mother, Mrs. C. B. (Helen Conley) Miller, owner of the Conley home. A year and a half ago Miller needed "house watchers" for the home and the Zaviks volunteered.

"I knew Mr. Miller was looking for new tenants six months after I began working for him," she said. "I just said, 'Hey, I want to live in that house.'"

The two-story brick home, built in 1867-69 for Sanford Francis Conley, was constructed of bricks made on the Conley property. The Italianate-style building with six bedrooms and 4.1-meter (14-foot) ceilings recently was named to the National Register of Historic Places. It is at 602 Sanford Place.

The building is a late 19th century example of Italianate style with a brick arch at the entrance and green molded

cornice at the roof line, said Pat Holmes, research associate for the State Historical Survey and Planning Office and an active participant in gaining official federal recognition for the home. The Conley home is one of the older houses in the Columbia area, she said.

"Columbia is an old town but you wouldn't know it because many old buildings have not survived," Mrs. Holmes said. "The Conley House is unique in that it did survive. Many of its kind are found in St. Louis and San Francisco, but it is rare in its locale — it's a local find."

Original grounds of the house extended to Providence Road, Mrs. Holmes said. "Of course, at that time it was at the edge of town."

A 9-year-old Helen Conley viewed the 1892 fire of the University's Academic Hall from an upstairs window. For the Zaviks there are other kinds of memories.

Dealing with the interest in the house of passersby is a major part of life in the Conley home. "People are always coming to the door. We wake up with people looking in the windows. In the spring and fall we have someone come



Joann Bratkowski

Conley House, 602 Sanford Place, is now a registered historic site.

Black Emphasis Week features active Bruin senior

By Wayne Savage
Missourian staff writer

If you can find Sam Smith sitting still, take his picture. It will be a rare photograph because the Rock Bridge High School senior seldom is inactive for very long.

Smith, a member of the school's football, basketball and track teams for three years, a member of the newly formed Key Club, an amateur artist and a "very fine student," is known at Rock Bridge as a busy, hard-working person who is rather quiet and modest about his accomplishments.

He could be found Friday in a basement hallway of the school preparing a display for the school's Black Emphasis Week, which begins Monday. With careful, methodical movements he was gluing illustrations depicting the American slave trade on to color posterboard.

His artistic ability already has been recognized at Rock Bridge, where his design for the school's mascot, the bruin, was incorporated into a crest on the gymnasium floor.

His favorite subjects, however, are black persons. "There aren't enough black artists," he says. And while he often finds inspiration for his art in friends around him, Smith explains that he hasn't yet tried drawing portraits. "I'm not that good," he says with a smile.

Smith explains that he has taken art classes every year in school since the seventh grade, but he drew on his own before that. His favorite medium is oil painting. "Next would come ceramics," he says, "but right now they're running neck to neck."

He is perhaps best known at Rock Bridge for his ability in athletics, especially on the gridiron, where he played offensive and defensive half-back. He started three years for the Bruins, including last year when the team won the Class AAA state championship and finished the season with a 12-0 record.

Rock Bridge football coach Rich Davies describes Smith as "a super football player, both offensively and defensively. He can do everything."

"He's not only a tremendous athlete," Davies says, "but a tremendous person. He did everything he could to help the other players."

A friend of Smith's, Mickey Leistner, describes Smith's attitude in athletics as "intensive."

Another friend and football teammate, John Massey, credits Smith's success to being "real quick on his feet." He says that ability also helps

Smith in basketball, a sport in which Smith is "a real hustler. He has the ability to cover the bigger man because he's so much faster."

Although talented in football, basketball and track, Smith has a definite favorite. "Football is the best," he says simply and without hesitation. He says he likes the body contact involved.

Smith's reputation at Rock Bridge includes that of being a person who works hard at achieving what he wants. Coach Davies says Smith's parents, Samuel and Katherine Smith, 401 Maplewood Drive, are "outstanding people who gave him the attitudes that enable him to succeed."

And one of his teachers, Wenona Robertson, says of him, "He's not one who's goofing off or anything like that." She expresses concern that perhaps his busy schedule takes time from his schoolwork. "He could be a better student if he had more time," she says.

"He has the ability."

Sam strikes one as being a quiet, modest person, despite his achievements. Questions are answered slowly, after a pause, as if he is searching for the right words to express his ideas. "He doesn't say a lot," Massey says, "but what he does say you listen to."

His quiet demeanor, Leistner says, causes some students to be afraid of him. "He doesn't smile a lot and doesn't say much," he says. "But he's not very quiet with me." Like other persons who know Smith, Leistner describes him as "kind of modest."

After graduating from Rock Bridge this May, Smith plans to attend college, although he isn't sure where. He would like to major in some type of art, perhaps wildlife illustration. His father is a medical photographer at the Truman Veterans Hospital, but Smith says medical illustration is "too complicated" for him.



Sam Smith
Multi-talented senior